

## Faculty Activity Report

February 2024

### **Karla Ryan, Associate Professor- Anatomy and Physiology and Lori Elwell, Associate Professor- Anatomy and Physiology**

Glacier High School brought 35 A&P students to FVCC for an A&P-Student-for-a-Day experience. Students received a 40-minute lecture on muscle function. For the following 1.5 hours, they were given study material for an exam and they had FVCC A&P student volunteers help them learn it. This involved reviewing parts of bones, muscle models, and cadavers. They ended their field trip by taking a practical exam. All exams were graded before students left the building.

On December 19, Flathead High School brought 40 BioMed students for the same A&P-Student-for-a-Day experience. These students received a 40-minute lecture on disease processes and cancer formation. Their exam material was focused on internal organs with special emphasis on the heart. They had the same 1.5 hours to learn the material, so they could take a practical exam. Their exams were also graded before they left the building.

High school teachers decide what topic they want for the lecture portion of these field trips. Then, we cater the study material to match the lecture students received. There are three more field trips planned for this semester.

### **Dr. Ranell Mueller, Assistant Professor, Psychology, Business & Social Sciences**

Dr. Ranell Mueller has a new publication this February in a peer-reviewed journal, *Society & Animals*.

Abstract: This study assessed how attachment to and caring for a companion animal dog in later life influences one's sense of self in this life-stage. Interviews were conducted with 12 older men (62–72 years of age) caring for a companion animal dog. Six men were then convened as a focus group to further discuss their experiences of caring for their dogs. Interviews and discussions revealed several themes: the way they thought about their dogs, i.e., viewing them as family and feeling responsible for their care influenced their attachment to their dogs; previous loss of dogs instilled in them a reverence for life for all living things; and as a result of caring for their dogs, the men developed a transcendent view of aging, framing their aging experience as being meaningful and purposeful.

### **Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)**

Faculty (and other members of the FVCC community) provided multiple breakout sessions at this year's spring in-service. The Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) helped coordinate those sessions and there was a TLC committee member who hosted each session.

Coming up in February, the TLC in coordination with Mandee Johnson is presenting training on *The Window of Tolerance* as part of the Scholar Sandbox series. Later in March, Amber Paulson-Hofseth and Ben Barckholtz are providing a Scholar Sandbox opportunity to discuss the

changing student demographic and how to best meet the needs of our current (and future) students.

**Eliza Sorte-Thomas, Ed.D., Associate Professor- Early Childhood and K-12 Education**  
**Director of Early Childhood**

Dr. Eliza Thomas presented to Kalispell Public Schools' New Teachers at their mid-year merriment induction training on how to "Recharge" when the expectations of a teacher's personal and professional life seem overwhelming. The workshop took place at Flathead High School and there were about sixty teachers in attendance. The partnership helps grow the connection between Kalispell Public Schools and the education department at FVCC. There were multiple FVCC grown teachers in attendance.

**Leigh Ann Downie-Economy, Adjunct Faculty for the EDEC Program.**

Leigh Ann is teaching Music and Movement with Young Learners this semester (EDEC 262) and is able to host FVCC early childhood educators for field experiences and learning labs at the Growing Roots Early Learning Center.